28th January 1929]

Improvement of the local varieties of tobacco.

*1045 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Department of Industries have made any proposals regarding the improvement of the local varieties of tobacco and the development of the cigar trade in this Presidency, and if so, what they are?

A.—The Director of Industries suggested that in order to develop the cigar trade, it will be necessary to produce a leaf of better quality, milder flavour and finer texture. The suggestion is now under the consideration of the Director of Agriculture.

*Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Is the hon. Minister aware that in Pusa experiments have been made and have proved successful in the production of a leaf of better quality and finer flavour and whether he is prepared to start experiments in this Presidency on those lines?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"I am not aware of it, but I will look into the matter."

Loans under the State Aid to Industries Act.

*1046-A Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state— 11-45 a.m.

(a) whether any applications have been made for loans under State Aid to Industries Act by those who are engaged in the cottage industries;

(b) if so, how many;

(c) whether any loans were granted to them;

(d) if the answer to clause (c) is in the affirmative, to whom, when, and how much; and

(e) if the answer to clause (a) is in the negative, the reasons for the scarcity of applications?

A.—(a) No.

(b), (c) & (d) Do not arise.

(e) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the Statement of Objects and Reasons annexed to the State Aid to Industries Act (Amending Bill) recently passed by the Legislative Council.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state why there are no applications at all from those engaged in the industry?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"The question has been answered."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"Has he enquired into the reasons?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"The Government do not make enquiries in such cases. It is for the people who require aid to apply for it"

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"Is the absence of applications due to the conditions attached to the grant of loans?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"Not that I am aware of."